Review of working of the MCD and NDMC

†*259. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had reviewed the working of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council in the month of February, 2006;

(b) if so, the sectors whose working was discussed during the course of said review;

(c) whether the comments of various courts that law be enforced on all equally were also discussed in the course of this review; and

(d) if so, the followup decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) There was no formal review as such but the issue of restructuring of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the existence of multiplicity of institutions in Delhi were discussed. Based on the discussions it is proposed to set up two committees.

Import of timber from Myanmar

*260. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade delegation from India recently visited Myanmar to explore the possibility of import of timber through land-route;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Free Trade Agreement among the members of BIMST-EC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation) has been finalized; and

(d) if not, by when it is likely to be finalized?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A delegation from Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IMCCI) visited Yangon from May 23rd to 27th, 2005. As per the report of the IMCCI, the delegation requested for allotment of 2000 MT of teak, which was acceded to by the Government of Myanmar.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Currently the negotiations are continuing with the objective of starting the implementation of the FTA with effect from 1st July, 2006.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Tax holiday for EOUs

1626. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Oriented Unit (EOU) have demanded that they also be given a Tax holiday on par with SEZs;

(b) if so, the specific demand in this regard;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) what other steps Government would take to create adequate incentives for EOU's to meet their challenges in the international market; and

(e) the steps proposed to increase the incentives being given to the Export Oriented Units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Foreign Trade Policy, 2004—2009 provides for exemption from payment of Income Tax as per the provisions of Section 10A and 10 B of the Income Tax Act. Section 10B of the Income Tax Act provides for exemption for the exports effected upto 31.3.2009. The Export Oriented Units had requested that the sunset clause may be removed. This has not been accepted on the ground that the long term export competitiveness must be built on comparative advantage and not on the basis of tax concessions.